

Lesbian Lieutenant to Sue NY Gov. Cuomo

May 24-31, 1987

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BIPAD: 65498

Michelle Parkerson and Stormé Delarverie:

The Filmmaker Celebrates a Black Woman's Courage



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Mass. House Passes Anti-Gay Foster, Adoption Law

The Department of Social Services shall not knowingly place or knowingly continue the placement of any child under its jurisdiction in the care of persons or persons (sic) whose sexual orientation is an obstacle to the psychological or physical well-being of the child. . . . This restriction shall include but not be limited to adoption, guardianship and foster care. . . . For the provision of this restriction, a homosexual or bisexual orientation shall be considered an obstacle to the psychological and physical well-being of a child.

—an amendment added to the Massachusetts budget by the House of Representatives.

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — Less than two weeks after passing a lesbian and gay rights bill, the House of

Representatives tacked an amendment on to the state budget which would ban lesbian and gay foster parenting and adoption. The amendment could also ban lesbian and gay child care workers. A similar amendment was passed by the House but defeated by the Senate in 1985.

The amendment, introduced by Rep. Marie Parente (D-Milford) on May 15, passed 94-56. The vote was in sharp contrast to the lesbian and gay rights bill which passed 77-65. In order for the amendment to become law, the Senate has to pass an identical amendment. Otherwise the amendment will be sent to the joint conference committee, which would be likely to kill it.

"Through the efforts of [Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Political] Caucus members such as Arline Isaacson, we had twice the number of [negative] votes this year than in 1985," noted Jane Morrison, lobbyist for the Caucus. In 1985 only 26 representatives voted against banning lesbian and gay foster care and adoption. Currently, said Morrison, the Caucus is "talking to people behind the scenes trying to avoid this kind of thing coming up in the Senate."

The Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee (GLDC) is planning an action in the State House in response to the amendment. On May 27, GLDC will parade through the State House at noon. Representatives will be given report cards reflecting their votes on the lesbian and gay rights bill and the Parente amendment.

"The main idea is to link these two things," said GLDC member

Ann Holder. "We don't feel foster care is separable from the gay rights bill. It's not like we can support legislators who support the gay rights bill and the foster care bill. Those two things are in contradiction."

Rep. Mark Roosevelt (D-Boston), the sponsor of the lesbian and gay rights bill, said, "I can understand those who are able to vote for the civil rights bill [and the Parente Amendment]. This intellectual difference has helped us pass the gay rights bill." Roosevelt stressed that he does not support the Parente amendment.

Governor Michael Dukakis who helped formulate a policy restricting lesbian and gay foster parents, does not support the amendment, according to his press secretary, Jim Dorsey. "We oppose it," said Dorsey. "We opposed it then [in 1985]." Dorsey said it is not clear whether Dukakis would be able to veto the amendment if passed. "It would depend on how it's constructed," said Dorsey. "We will work with the legislators to see if it can avoid coming to the Governor's desk."

Dorsey said he sees a difference between the current policy backed by the Governor and the Parente amendment. "This would place an absolute statutory ban on where children would be placed," he said. "The [current] policy does not prohibit that, the policy places guidelines to ensure the best interest in the placement of children."

For more information about the GLDC demonstration, call (617) 661-7737.

Colo. Mandates AIDS Reporting

By Stephanie Poggi

DENVER — As GCN goes to press, a bill that requires disclosure of the names of people who test positive for the HIV virus and grants new quarantine powers to health officials has received final approval by a House-Senate conference committee. The bill is expected to be law by mid-June.

The Coalition for Political Responsibility, the group that led the fight against the bill, is planning their own network of alternative anonymous counselling/testing sites.

While a Colorado state regulation instituted in October of 1985 already mandates the reporting of names of people who test HIV positive to the State Department of Public Health, the new law will solidify the regulation. Specifically, House Bill 1177 mandates that testing laboratories give the health department the names and addresses of HIV positive individuals and that private doctors report the names and addresses of those with AIDS or HIV-related illnesses. Failure to do so will result in prosecution.

Another provision of the bill allows local and state health authorities to inspect any medical records relevant to investigations of sources of HIV infection. Officials are not required to inform the person whose records they are seeking.

The bill also expands the state's powers to quarantine persons who "endanger the public health." The bill allows for the issuance of orders to "cease and desist" behaviors believed to be "dangerous" by public health officials. If an individual does not "cease and desist," he or she can be taken into custody for 72 hours. Arthur Powers, of the Coalition for Political Responsibility, told GCN his group is urging anyone contacted by health authorities to "Just Say No." Powers added, "they'll be saying 'yes' to civil liberties."

He added that gay/lesbian fears that the law will "drive [people at risk] underground" have already been borne out. Since implementation of the 1985 reporting regulation, "clinic visits overall have dropped substantially — people at highest risk have virtually boycotted the state's clinics." He said, "AIDS will be spread even more rapidly because of this law. . . . It will cause more lives to be lost, not to be saved."

State Health Chief Tom Vernon, who strongly backed the legislation, has argued that the best way to stop AIDS is to change the behavior of those who have been exposed to it. According to Vernon, reporting names will allow the health department to offer appropriate counselling and education.

The American Civil Liberties Union and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund are currently studying the feasibility of a legal challenge to the new law.

—filed from Boston

Dutch Raid Bookshop

By Lawrence A. Stanley

AMSTERDAM — Intermale, the Netherlands' largest gay bookstore and art gallery, was raided by Amsterdam police on May 13. Authorities charged that a current exhibit in the gallery by U.S. photographer Don Mader contained "child pornography."

The police entered the store at about noon in search of photographs with "an emphasis on the sexual objectification of young children," "an over-emphasis on the the penile area," or "anything confrontational" involving minors under the age of 16. After drinking coffee with Ruud Hollenkamp, co-owner of Intermale, and examining Mader's work, the police left with 15 photographs.

According to Hollenkamp, the police stated at the time of the seizure that they personally did not see anything wrong with the photographs, but that they were acting on "strict orders" from the chief prosecutor in Amsterdam. The prosecutor is apparently under pressure from U.S. and British authorities to suppress all nude depictions of minors.

Hollenkamp said the police argued among themselves and seemed confused about what to seize. What they did seize were "just pictures of nude boys," said Hollenkamp. "None of them showed any erections, sexual activity, or physical contact between boys or adults. . . . This is a clear case of [illegal] censorship."

In May, 1986, the Dutch "child pornography" law went into effect, outlawing all nude depiction of minors engaged in sexual activity or which "incite sexual desire" in the photographer or viewer. There have

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Protesting Prisoners Demand AIDS Ed.

By Kim Westheimer

NORFOLK, MA — Lack of AIDS education was among a number of concerns leading to a protest at a state prison here.

The protest at the Norfolk Massachusetts Correctional Institution (MCI) was initially sparked by allegations that a prisoner's arm had been broken by a guard. On the morning of May 13, approximately 50 Black prisoners demonstrated in the prison yard. They dispersed after less than two hours and were denied a request to speak with prison officials. In the afternoon approximately 250 people resumed the protest.

Officials met with some prisoners late that evening. Prisoners' concerns were put forward and "most everyone was satisfied" with this meeting, said Ahmad Rashad, who was part of the afternoon protest. But, he said, a number of prisoners were unaware of the result of this meeting and resumed a 45 minute protest the next morning.

"Four hours later they came in with a tactical team and extracted 73 of us," said Rashad. The team consisted of 300 officers carrying riot gear, according to Rashad. "Groups of officers rushed each unit to get people in cells. One guy in my unit got trampled. . . . There [was] no need for this. There was never any threat of any kind to warrant this." The 73 prisoners, including Rashad, were moved to

other prisons. Six more prisoners were transferred the following day.

Prisoners were denied the right to legal counsel.

The need for AIDS education

Fear of AIDS is widespread within Norfolk Prison. Two prisoners, Robert Land and Alvin Love, have filed suit against Governor Michael Dukakis and a number of state officials charging them with failure to institute mandatory HIV testing in prisons. Land and Love maintain in their suit that "the Defendants, in failing to provide mandatory AIDS testing for all inmates, seriously endanger the physical and mental well-being of the Plaintiffs."

"Myself I know that people with AIDS are not necessarily an immediate danger to me," said Rashad. "A lot of people don't know that. Personally [I believe] education is more important than testing. Their [Land and Love] concern is mainly for education. However you have to do something to get that — to get the Dept. of Correction (DOC) to act in some way."

Mandatory testing and possible disclosure of test results to the prison population could put people with AIDS under "physical threat," acknowledged Rashad. But, he added, the prison will not

even administer the HIV test to people who request it. "I recently went to medical people and I told them I wanted the test," said Rashad. "They asked me if I used IV drugs. I said, 'no.' They asked me if I had taken part in sex. I said 'no.' They said you're not high risk and don't have to be tested."

Administration of the HIV test is completely up to a doctor's discretion, according to DOC spokesperson Gail Darnell. "If they [prisoners] have symptoms or are concerned about their condition or activity, they would make an appointment with a doctor. The doctor would decide whether [to administer] the test."

While some DOC officials claim that an AIDS education film has been shown to prisoners, Rashad

said he is not aware of such a film. "We never get any education except what we get on our own," said Rashad.

Darnell maintains that AIDS pamphlets have been distributed for a number of years to all prisoners during orientation. One such "AIDS Fact Sheet" states that AIDS is transmitted "through homosexual or bi-sexual men, through IV drug users, through hemophiliacs due to blood transfusions and through female sex partners of men with AIDS." No other AIDS transmission information is provided in the pamphlet. Health service staff members discuss AIDS more thoroughly during orientation, according to Darnell. "Prisoners are

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Jesse Jackson on AIDS:

"In their racist and homophobic bigotry, they would end the lives of hundreds of thousands, gay and straight, Black and white and Hispanic. In their determination to control the moral climate of this nation, they threaten the lives of us all."

Story page 3.

news notes

quotes of the week

"In discussing [Willa] Cather's lesbianism in my book, I know that I am disregarding one of her wishes. Judging from Cather's letters and her fiction, she wanted to be viewed as a woman but not as a lesbian. Her love for women was a source of great strength and imaginative power to her, but she feared misunderstanding and repudiation if this love were to be publicly named, quite a legitimate fear in her time. But if we are to understand not only this writer's life but also the complex interconnections between her life and her work, we must now take account of her lesbianism which has long been assumed by most readers although excluded from official biographical consideration. Willa Cather's need to conceal and camouflage her sexual identity in both life and art arose from her society's condemnation of such love as deviant and unnatural. But since I am writing in a more enlightened era than hers, I can assume that I am addressing the sympathetic readers that Cather, given her different historical context, could not have imagined."

—Sharon O'Brien, in the introduction to her biography, Willa Cather: The Emerging Years, via the New York Native.

"On a fine spring evening, streetwalkers used to engage in sex on the grass knoll of the Eliot Norton Park along south Charles Street. But then came foot patrolman Steve Hofferty and 'Operation Squeeze.' He mercilessly busted hookers until, in his words, he'd 'terrorized them out of the neighborhood.'"

—Jonathan Eisensthal, from an article entitled "Bay Village's Top Cop" in the April issue of Boston Police Report, a newsletter by the Boston Police Department. Eisensthal also points out Hofferty's bravery one afternoon when he "spied a tall black man making a coke buy from a short white man with a dark complexion."



Down with Rehn-KKK-uist

rehnquist gets cool reception

BOSTON — Sixty demonstrators protested outside of Boston University (BU) graduation ceremonies where Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist was a featured speaker. Rehnquist has voted against making sodomy laws unconstitutional, providing abortion, and legalizing affirmative action for people of color.

While most of the protesters were not BU students, approximately 50 BU students stood up and turned their backs on Rehnquist when he gave his speech.

—Kim Westheimer

us seeks hiv test for immigrants

WASHINGTON, DC — On May 15 the Public Health Service proposed mandatory HIV testing for all immigrants seeking permanent resident status in the U.S., according to the New York Times. If approved by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), all immigrants testing positive for HIV would be excluded from the U.S.

Under a previous proposal a doctor examining an individual seeking permanent residency could require him or her to take the HIV test only if symptoms or manifestations of AIDS were apparent. That proposal had been approved by HHS but rejected by OMB.

Since 1980, the number of people accepted by the U.S. as permanent residents has ranged from 530,000 to 600,000 a year.

It is unclear what impact the testing proposal, if adopted, would have on the up to 3.9 million people applying for legalization under the immigration reform program begun earlier this month. The new program allows permanent residency status for people who can prove they continuously resided in the U.S. since January 1, 1982. Lesbian and gay men, along with convicted felons and anyone with three or more misdemeanor convictions are excluded from the amnesty provisions. (See GCN, Vol. 14, No. 35 for more on the threat immigration reform poses to gay Latino immigrants.)

—Stephanie Poggi

fire off a letter for the mass. rights bill

BOSTON — In an attempt to get the Massachusetts lesbian and gay rights bill through its last hurdle — the Senate — the Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Political Caucus and the Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance are mounting a letter-writing campaign.

It is not known when the Senate, which is traditionally more conservative than the House, will vote on the legislation.

The Caucus is asking people to send their letters to them (at Astor Station, P.O. Box 8, Boston, MA 02123) so that *en masse* delivery can be coordinated. People who do not know who their State Senator is can send letters with their addresses and the Caucus will address the letter to the appropriate Senator.

Senators who are considered particularly important to write include Carol Amick (D-Bedford), Walter Boverine (D-Lynn), John Brennan (D-Malden), Paul Harold (D-Quincy), John Patrick Houston (D-Worcester), William Keating (D-Sharon), Michael LoPresti (D-Boston), William Q. MacLean (D-New Bedford), Patricia McGovern (D-Lawrence), Linda Melconian (D-Springfield), Thomas Norton (D-Fall River), Martin Reilly (D-Springfield), Paul Sheehy (D-Lowell), Peter Webber (R-Pittsfield), and Thomas White (D-Worcester).

—Kim Westheimer

adhesive condom

MINNEAPOLIS, MN — The Mentor Corporation has started manufacturing a "two-piece condom system," featuring an adhesive condom with an applicator hood for easy on — but not off. With the use of condoms expected to increase by 20 to 30 percent a year, according to the San Juan Star, the company felt it "had a product that offered a significant advantage over what was currently available."

"The adhesive was very carefully designed to provide enough tack and yet come off very easily," said Al Mannino, vice president of health care products. "By rolling it off, it comes off very easily, but when it's secured in position, pulling on it will not remove it." The sticky rubbers won't be inexpensive, though. They'll sell for \$25-\$30 per dozen compared to the \$5 or so that can get you twelve Trojans.

—Jim Fauntleroy

amazon mud wrestling

ATLANTA — The ancient lesbian sport of mud wrestling was recently accorded its due respect at the Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance (ALFA) retreat. According to *Atlanta*, the ALFA newsletter, 20 lucky women viewed a match between national lesbian mud wrestling champs Wonder Woman and challenger Big Tuna.

For those of you who are not in the know, the sport of Amazons requires endurance, strength, agility, wrestling skills and the ability to anticipate your opponents' moves. Preparations for the sport are extensive. Players first have their bikini-clad bodies greased up with safflower oil by their personal trainers. The champions and the padded, plastic coated ring are then smeared with chocolate pudding. (Real Amazon wrestlers always use chocolate pudding instead of mud.)

Now, the point of the sport is to pin both shoulders of your opponent for the count of ten. The referee can count slow or fast at her whim and can call time-outs or fouls as she chooses.

In this particular match, it appeared to many onlookers that the "over-confident brute" Wonder Woman would easily cream "sweet-looking demure" Big Tuna. Wonder Woman's first move was to mop Big Tuna's face in the chocolate sludge. The crowd went wild.... Then Wonder Woman spanked Big Tuna. More cheers.

But Big Tuna had her own proven technique; she slipped in and out of Wonder Woman's grasp, wearing the brute's resistance.

After Wonder Woman was fouled for repeatedly tearing off Big Tuna's bathing suit, the attentive trainers freshened up their champs and it was back into the ring again.

Although Wonder Woman appeared to have Big Tuna down for good time and time again, it was at last Big Tuna who pinned the "hunky, enraged" Wonder Woman for the count of ten. And Big Tuna made it all look easy. Reports have it that there was not a dry seat in the house....

And now some excerpts from interviews with the two stars following the upset:

Wonder Woman: "It was an unfair call at the end, you just ask my fans! I demand a rematch if Big Tuna isn't too scared to face me. Next time we'll have a fair referee! Big Tuna, Hah! Big Shrimp is more like it."

Big Tuna: The only wonder is how that woman lasted as long as she did! If she wants to lose to me again, I'm ready!"

—Stephanie Poggi



(L-R) Ginny Apuzzo, Cuomo's liaison to the gay community; Richard Burns, exec. director of NY's Les/Gay Community Services Center; and Gov. Mario Cuomo, at the Ctr., April 21.

cuomo to bar hiv tests for insurance

NEW YORK — Governor Mario Cuomo announced April 21, during a speech at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, that a new state regulation will prohibit health and life insurers from testing applicants for HIV antibodies. Cuomo also signed an amended version of executive order 28 that placed the responsibility for lesbian and gay rights with the Division of Human Rights. The responsibility for enforcement was previously in the Office of Employee Relations.

Cuomo told the 500 onlookers at the Center that "Discrimination based on sexual orientation is wrong; to encourage it or allow government itself to discriminate against any of us would threaten us all.... It must be made clear that discrimination or violence directed at someone because he or she is gay is as despicable as if directed at someone for any of the absurd reasons that are traditionally recognized by our human rights laws."

Cuomo also spoke of that late Peter Vogel, co-founder of the Center, formerly chairman of the State Gay Task Force and vice chairman of the Governor's AIDS Advisory Council. The Governor said Vogel, who died of AIDS, is "a powerful reminder that these [AIDS] statistics... represent real lives, real human beings... engulfing hundreds and thousands of friends like Peter."

—Stephanie Poggi

new calendar for lesbians

NORTHAMPTON, MA — *The Calendar*, a new listing of events in the Pioneer Valley by and for lesbians, is currently gathering material and seeking input from local women. The calendar will feature classified ads (no personals) and business-card ads from lesbian businesses in addition to a schedule of local happenings.

Women interested in helping with *The Calendar* should leave a message at (413) 586-0947 or write *The Calendar*, P.O. Box 5000, Suite 132, Northampton, MA 01060.

—Jim Fauntleroy

4th int'l people of color conference

TORONTO — Lesbians and Gays of Colour-Toronto is planning the fourth International Lesbian and Gay People of Colour Conference to be held here in August, 1988. The theme is "Grass Roots" and participants will discuss working for social change and the links between progressive struggles.

For information, write Box 6597, Station A, Toronto, ON, M5W, 1X4.

—Marc Stein

act up goes national

NEW YORK — A demonstration being planned for the third international AIDS conference in Washington, D.C. is turning into a national event. The June 1 protest organized by the New York-based AIDS activists' organization, Act Up, will now be coordinated with protests in Chicago, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

According to Michael Petrelis, a person with AIDS and a member of Act Up, the demonstrations' primary focus will be the lack of treatments for people with AIDS.

Act Up can be contacted c/o the Lavender Hill Mob, 496A Hudson St., Suite G19, New York, New York 10014.

—Kim Westheimer

Jackson Slams US on AIDS

By Stephanie Poggi

BOSTON — Speaking to a packed auditorium at Northeastern University on May 13, Jesse Jackson chastised the Reagan administration for its inaction in the face of AIDS. He also cautioned against "careless irresponsible sex."

In one of a number of statements about the false "morality" of the U.S. government, he said, "Why is President Reagan so generous with money to take lives in Central America — and yet so stingy with money to save lives here in the United States of America! Why is the President so reluctant to be guided by morality in his dealings with the immoral racist government of South Africa, yet wants only to preach morality in his response to this deadly disease which has no morality!"

Jackson also noted the disproportionate numbers of Black and Latino people with AIDS in the U.S. and urged an end to "racist and homophobic bigotry." He called for "programs targeted at people most at risk, including Blacks and Hispanics, using language appropriate to the culture and community, working closely with those groups in the community who have already taken on the responsibility of AIDS education." He said support is needed for "international organizations such as the World Health Organization to increase the knowledge about AIDS and the ability to prevent AIDS throughout the world, understanding that viruses do not stop at national boundaries."

He spoke of the need for education about AIDS, asking, "Why do we deliberately hold back information that could save lives, speak in code that informs nobody, pretend that young people don't need to know about sex — or that if we don't mention it to them, they'll never think of it for themselves!"

Jackson emphasized the need for affordable treatments for AIDS, and said, "It is intolerable that life-prolonging drugs such as AZT may not be available to people with AIDS



Jackson at Northeastern Univ.

seeking family planning information, gay men and any other because they cannot afford \$10,000 a year for medicine.... It is essential for this society that we meet our responsibilities to our brothers and sisters with AIDS, and that includes making provisions now so they get the health care they need. If we cannot save their lives, we can give them dignity for the rest of their lives. If we cannot stop AIDS today, we can stop it from bankrupting individuals and families and communities which right now must bear the brunt of the costs."

Stressing that testing must be voluntary and test results must be confidential, Jackson stated, "Above all, we must be vigilant against efforts to use testing itself as a penalty. We must speak out against those who would use test results as the Nazis used the pink triangle — to single out gay men for punishment." He added that "the necessary legislation should be passed to protect the confidentiality of test results and prohibit discrimination against testees." Jackson did recommend that "pregnant women, women

targeted populations... be encouraged to seek testing."

When Jackson turned to address the sexual practices of the audience, he said, "In your own behavior, have you considered the possibility of AIDS?... If you care so much for someone that you choose the intimacy of sex, does not your caring include the need to be careful? Careless irresponsible sex can cause so much harm — to babies who may result — from the women — and men — who may be hurt...." He asked for a promise "that you will show respect for your own mind and body and for the minds and bodies of others: that you will not endanger your own future — or that of your friends — by careless, reckless, irresponsible behavior."

Jackson was introduced to the audience by Northeastern president Kenneth G. Ryder, who emphasized his commitment and that of the school to supporting the Boston AIDS Action Committee's May 31 fundraising walk: From All Walks of Life. Ryder said Northeastern is "the only institution of higher education listed as supporting this pledge walk."

Lesbian Lieut. to Sue NY Gov.

By Kim Westheimer

NEW YORK — A lesbian lieutenant fighting dismissal from the New York Air Guard announced her plan to file suit against Governor Mario M. Cuomo and Secretary of the Air Force, Edward Aldridge, at a May 20 press conference.

Lieutenant Ellen Nesbitt has been struggling to remain in the military since July of 1985 when she disclosed that she was a lesbian. (See GCN, Vol. 14, No. 4) The Air Force has begun proceedings to give Nesbitt an honorable discharge for being in violation of the Department of Defense (DOD) Directive 1332.14 which states, "Homosexuality is incompatible with military service."

The suit against Cuomo stems from his failures to invoke the New York State executive order banning anti-lesbian or -gay discrimination against New York State employees. Nesbitt is technically a New York State employee, according to her lawyer, Louis Font. She deserves a hearing regarding possible discharge and "she shouldn't be discriminated against at all," said Font.

Eldridge is being sued because the DOD Directive 1332.14 is a violation of Fifth Amendment rights, said Font. "The regulations are illegal."

Nesbitt was notified on April 17 that her request for an "efficiency board hearing" had been denied. The hearing would have allowed Nesbitt to be represented by a lawyer and to present evidence in her favor.

Cuomo, who is Commander-in-Chief of the New York Air Guard, is unable to affect the Air Force's actions in this matter, according to his staff. A statement released from Cuomo's office stated, "For some time the New York National Guard... at the direction of Governor Mario M. Cuomo... has assisted Lieutenant Ellen Nesbitt and her counsel in

her efforts to obtain the efficiency board hearings she has sought.... However, the Department of the Air Force which is responsible for convening this board has determined there is no entitlement under existing regulations for the board hearings."

"The fact of the matter is we feel strongly about turning over every conceivable rock," said Virginia Apuzzo, the Governor's liaison to the lesbian/gay community. "It's our belief there is nothing we can do to get Ellen the hearing we believe she's entitled to."

As for the executive order banning discrimination, Apuzzo said, "The executive order has to do with civilian employment. The military almost has its own constitution. The [DOD] code is 'the book' — capital 't' capital 'b' — in the military."

The notion that Cuomo can't do anything is "ridiculous," said Font. "Mario Cuomo is trying to palm this off as being an Air Force decision and the Air Force is trying to palm this off as being the Governor's decision."

According to Font, governors can control the operation of State Air Guard forces. As evidence, he pointed to an announcement issued last year by six governors — including Cuomo — which stated their refusal to send their State Guards to Honduras.

Tom Conroy, press secretary for Cuomo, said Cuomo "did not stop the Guard from going to Honduras" and that there was never a call to send them there.

Nesbitt continues to serve in the Guard as the proceedings to discharge her advance. For the most part, said Nesbitt, the people with whom she works have been supportive. "They have had a known lesbian amidst their ranks for nearly two years," she said. "I'm still carrying out all my duties."

—filed from Boston

We're Off and Running for the Big March

By Chris Bull

WASHINGTON, DC — Organizing for the October 11 Lesbian and Gay March on Washington is progressing smoothly despite recurring debates over policy, march planners told GCN.

Organizers hope for one million participants from around the country in what could be one of the largest protests in the last decade. Approximately 100,000 people attended a 1979 gay and lesbian march.

New threats to the lesbian and gay community, including AIDS discrimination, the rise of the religious Right, and the Supreme Court's anti-sodomy decision in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, have served to unite the community to an unprecedented degree, according to activists.

Steve Ault, a New York organizer and member of the national steering committee, says he is encouraged by the response he has received from many different parts of the community in New York. "This march seems to have the unique ability to transcend specific politics. If this happens on a national level, the march could be gigantic."

Despite the optimism of almost everyone associated with the march, considerable controversy continues to surround the platform, civil disobedience, plans for a mock wedding and speakers. However, the acrimony that marked earlier national meetings receded in favor of compromises reached at a May 1 national steering committee meeting in Atlanta.

The final wording of an anti-racism statement, which will be included in all march literature, was adopted at the meeting after strong lobbying from the People of Color Task Force. The anti-racism, multi-issue final draft reads: "As members of the lesbian and gay movement, we too are affected by rising racism and sexism which oppresses people of color and women; thereby the liberation of lesbians and gays is intricately linked to the struggles against racism, sexism, and anti-Semitism. We realize that none of us will be free until we are all free. We therefore call upon all our sisters and brothers to actively confront racism on all levels both within our movement, and in the larger society. We demand an end to racist and sexist oppression. We demand an end to all social, economic, judicial and legal oppression of people of every race, age, gender, transgender orientation, ability, class, ethnicity, faith, political ideology, and sexual orientation."

Organizers also expressed relief that the debate over the platform finally came to an end with the adoption of a final draft. The platform, ten full pages of demands drafted by the national steering committee during a series of meetings, includes: the legal recognition of lesbian and gay relationships, the repeal of all laws that make sodomy between consenting adults a crime, a presidential order banning anti-gay discrimination by the federal government, passage of the Congressional lesbian and gay

rights bill, an end to discrimination against people of color with AIDS or those perceived to have AIDS, massive funding increases for AIDS education and research, an end to sexism, reproductive freedom and an end to racism in this country and apartheid in South Africa.

Some participants believe that a demand for an end to intervention in Central America should have been included and more stress placed on combatting racism. Bob Lederer, a New York organizer, also emphasized that the statement and the implementation of it are two entirely different things. The national steering committee does require that state delegations include 25 percent people of color and have an equal balance between men and women in order to be seated at national meetings. Ault said, "We are serious about empowerment. Not even the peace movement is so adamant about creating representative structures. This will show everyone interested in social justice just what affirmative action is."

Still, some activists expressed doubts about the national steering committee's commitment to representation. Susan Levene, a local organizer and member of the New England steering committee, believes that local, "grassroots" organizations have not had enough input. She added that she does not agree with the choice of Jesse Jackson as a speaker at the rally. Levene said Jackson has been reluctant to include gay men

and lesbians in his "rainbow coalition" and that he stresses family values to the detriment of the gay community. "To have someone not 100 percent behind our goals is not good enough."

Terry Ortiz of the People of Color Task Force disagrees with Levene. She believes that coalition building potential outweighs Jackson's homophobia. "This is a great opportunity to educate him on these issues and, given the other candidates, he is certainly the best we could have." She also stressed that the People of Color Task Force wished to get away from a policing role and focus on what they could offer to the march organization. "We can serve as a great resource working within the anti-racism framework." She said, however, that the burden of outreach to people of color still seemed to fall on them and that some people on the national steering committee do not understand the concept of tokenism.

The People of Color Task Force went into the May 1 meeting in Atlanta somewhat apprehensive because of the opposition they felt at previous meetings (See GCN, Vol. 14, No. 21). Ortiz said that she was encouraged by the anti-racism statement and the willingness of people to be educated on issues of race. "We asked people to connect their own struggles with the struggles of others and the human rights struggle in general."

Levene and others also expressed dissatisfaction with "the wedding," planned for October 10.

"The wedding" is sponsored by the national march and Couples, Inc., a Los Angeles-based lesbian and gay couples advocacy group and will include a non-sectarian union ceremony to "celebrate existing on-going relationships." Critics of "the wedding" feel that it is a reproduction of repressive heterosexual institutions. Ortiz expressed concern that the event would be "camp" and take away from meaningful events.

While there continues to be controversy about the role of civil disobedience at March events, participants in the Atlanta meeting agreed to support an action on October 12 at the Supreme Court. Many organizers feel it is important to draw special attention to the Supreme Court as a result of the *Bowers v. Hardwick* sodomy decision. More conservative elements in the community have argued however, that civil disobedience will detract from the March by creating an image of lawlessness.

Organizers from around the country agree that enthusiasm has been high among volunteers. Many regional committees complain of a lack of money but seem confident that they will be ready by October 11. Pat Norman, former San Francisco gay and lesbian health services coordinator and a San Francisco organizer, says that the national march is getting support from places it never has in the past because people realize that "it is now or never.... People think it is time. Falwell,

Continued on page 12

Community Voices

GCN JOB OPENING

Stephanie Poggi, GCN's News Editor, will be moving over to the position of Features Editor. So now we need a new

NEWS EDITOR

to coordinate the news department; write or assign to other staff or volunteer writers articles of local and national/international interest; edit news copy; and lay out news pages each week. Requires strong writing and editing skills.

All GCN positions require familiarity with gay and lesbian community; commitment to gay and lesbian liberation, feminism, anti-racism, and collective decision-making; and an awareness of class issues.

All GCN staff members receive \$180/week plus 4 weeks paid vacation, complete health/life insurance and sick leave. GCN also offers staff members a flexible, non-hierarchical work setting, with room for independence and innovation.

Send resumes and writing sample by June 8 to:
GCN Job Search, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

GCN strives for a multi-racial staff and board, and for equal representation of dykes and fags. Currently our staff is all white, with four men, five women, and one position unfilled. Our board is comprised of two men of color, two white men and four white women.

buckwheat t-shirts racist

Dear GCN:

Racism is in again. But you know that; the articles you print are evidence that you know it, racism receives widespread acceptance and approval.

Just today, on my lunchtime stroll through downtown Boston, caught by the traffic signal at the corner of State and Washington Streets, I was struck, shoved from my enjoyment of the signs of spring, by the wares exhibited on a cart parked on that corner. Flapping lazily in the May breeze were several large t-shirts emblazoned with a frizzy-haired, bug-eyed specter from the past: Buckwheat.

I stopped, momentarily unsure of what to do, though sure that there was *something* to do, something for *me* to do. I asked the young lady attending the cart, an attractive Asian Indian, if she owned or leased it. She replied that she did not and to a second question responded that her employer was a "Norton," although she refused to give any further clues to his identity or to where he might be reached. I suggested to her that the "Buckwheat" shirts were offensive, specifically to blacks, but, maybe generally, to everyone. She disagreed. It was her opinion that the shirts, a form of nostalgia, were "entertaining," "enjoyable," "amusing." I asked her if she would

find the likeness of an Indian similarly depicted as entertaining, enjoyable or amusing. She said yes, she would. I don't believe her.

Demeaning race is a peculiar entertainment. There is not nostalgia in the relics of Dachau or Bergen-Belsen. Recalling the "Trail of Tears" of native Americans is likewise scant enjoyment. Eddie Murphy's legacy to his generation is a giant backward step into ignorance and self-mockery. Leave it to a man who has made his own "reputation" spewing profanity and projecting "niggerisms," the swaggering self-caricature of a certain kind of white person finds a balm indeed to what he perceives as his injured and long suffering psyche. The black professional and blue-collar worker alike, the welfare mother and eager college student, the young black child walking by this cart are all slapped in the face by this picture, larger than life, of a mindless dupe, grinning moronically for all time. And we, black people, are meant to be shamed by it. Do not deceive yourself about that, please. There is no other reason for the existence of such products. The slave market only seems to be closed.

Dale Edwyna Smith
Allston, MA

from a friend of nicaraguan lesbians & gay men

Dear GCN:

I am recently back from two months in Nicaragua and have been reading through back issues of GCN where I see an ongoing debate about leftism and gay rights, especially as they apply to Nicaragua. What strikes me immediately is how Nicaraguan lesbians and gay men have been left out the question altogether. While I cannot report what all Nicaraguan gay people think, for they are as diverse a group as gay people in North America, I can give a sense of what several friendship networks in Managua are thinking and talking about.

After spending some time in Nicaragua, everyone learns that the U.S. mass media and the Reagan administration are not just wrong or distorted in their presentation of Nicaragua, but almost irrelevant to the reality. It is rather like hearing Pat Robertson on homosexuality. The depiction is not just inaccurate, it is an outrageous fantasy based on some kind of personal paranoia completely unrelated to the experience of the people it is supposedly commenting on.

There is oppression of gay people in Nicaragua and it comes from machismo and Roman Catholicism. As the Sandinistas are a coalition with modern ideas which seeks to criticize these ideologies, they are looked upon favorably by most gay people and many are involved in revolutionary organizations. There is no evidence of Cuban-style persecution nor any signs that there will be. No doubt the Sandinista government has not done enough, but in a country where there has never been a commercial scene or gay organizations to develop pride or articulate gay/lesbian concerns, gay topics have not become a part of the national political agenda.

In November, 1985, the only public debate on gay issues occurred, following a comment by an editorial writer in *El Nuevo Diario* calling gay people "garbage." A series of letters followed, denouncing the writer's homophobia and *El Nuevo Diario* gave the last word to Mario Gutierrez Morales who wrote in to remind readers of the persecution of gay people under the Argentine military dictatorship and to name homophobia "an ultra-reactionary ideology...denying democratic liberties, human rights, the right to participate in the construction of a pluralist,

revolutionary and democratic society."

AIDS coverage, incidentally, has nearly always been direct translations from AP wire service reports, so as reporting has improved in the U.S., it has had a direct impact elsewhere.

Finally, I notice that several writers to GCN have cited the closing of *La Prensa* as evidence of "Stalinism." In an ideal world, *La Prensa* would continue publishing and President Ortega has said as much, noting that it will be allowed to reopen when the war ends. But I think the Nicaraguan viewpoint should not be dismissed out of hand. Nicaraguans every day feel the economic pressure of the U.S. war against them and have had friends, lovers, and relatives killed on U.S. taxpayers' funds; *La Prensa's* open support of the contras and testimony before the U.S. Congress in favor of the \$100 million contra budget overreached the limits of toleration. It is the sort of dilemma that philosophers ponder when they ask if the right of free speech extends to shouting "Fire!" in a crowded theater. To most, free speech reaches a limit when direct consequence of such a provocation would be so clearly harmful. After seven years of war and 18,000 dead, Nicaraguan patience has worn thin. (Incidentally, *La Prensa* was not closed for supporting "capitalism" as one letter to GCN would have it.)

There are at least two friendship networks that I am aware of that have been thinking about organizing a Sandinista gay movement along the lines of the women's and youth organizations. It may happen yet. Sincerely,
Barry D. Adam
Ontario, Canada

GCN prints all letters to the editor except personal attacks; carbon copies of letters sent elsewhere are published on a space-available basis. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the GCN membership. Letters should be TYPED and DOUBLESPPACED limited to THREE typed pages. Send to Community Voices, GCN, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

the u.s. prolonged world war II

Dear GCN:

It's a little late in the day — and in the century — to read a speech reported in GCN that the U.S. "did get the atomic bomb first and we won the war much more quickly because of it." (Duke Comegys in April 26 Speaking Out).

There were probably many reasons for dropping the first bomb, and then the second one, but ending the war quickly was probably the least of them.

It is established that Japan was pressing for peace, but that Truman was reported as saying they hadn't suffered enough.

If anyone prolonged the war it was the U.S., by insisting on "unconditional surrender." Any street battler knows that if you demand such surrender from your enemy, you drive him into fighting harder and longer.

Igal Roodenko
New York, NY

leapfrogging on our backs?

Dear GCN:

I'm writing in response to the accusations made by Sophie Parker in her letter about my review of this year's Women in Theatre Festival (WITF).

Parker's notion that one is neither responsible nor accountable in one medium (print) for public declarations in another (radio) is nonsensical. I did not misquote the gist of her remarks on "Performance Today." Here is the exchange:

Bill Marks: The first women's theatre festivals were sparked by the feminist movement, and they featured plays and performers who often reflected a strong political bent. But with the ebb of feminism over the years, women's theatre has changed. In fact, Sophie Parker, director of this year's festival, says that one of the keys to the local festival's survival has been the presentation of *women artists* rather than *feminist politics*.

Sophie Parker: This festival has never been about *feminist* theatre; it has not been about *women's* theatre. I think that's a misconception. I think what it has been about is showcasing women artists who have not had a chance to be seen.

[Original emphasis] Copies of this tape are available from WBUR.

The quote stating that the first organizers of the local festival came together because "Women are often overlooked" in theatre came, as I noted in the review, from the Women in Theatre program guide, which like other WITF publicity, must have Parker's final approval. "Overlooked" is such a weak way of referring to the sexism — exclusion, abuse and harassment — women have suffered in the theatre trades that it seems a deliberate soft-pedaling of anything that would smack of feminism.

As for the program copy, in the Festival's first year it was written primarily by the two women involved in the Festival, and in the second year, one woman was credited as publicist. If the Women in Theatre Festival now signs contracts denying them the right to produce their own copy, those contracts should be changed. Even if the Festival is not interested in the pragmatic benefits of better program notes (attracting larger audiences), I still hold that the Festival organizers have a responsibility to inform us, and inform us well, about what is being offered. Many women who would have welcomed the rare opportunity to see the issue of disability addressed by a physically challenged performer missed Lisa Thorson's *Spokesong* because the program notes gave no indication of this theme.

WITF's advertising this year also shows that a different audience is being targeted. This year pre-publicity appeared first in the *New England Entertainment Digest*, in a February 20 article; and then in the March issue of the *Women's Review of Books* and *Sojourner*. Reaching out to a broader audience is, of course, commendable, but other advertising was cut back. The previous year WITF ran a combination of paid and exchange ads in GCN, which began two weeks in advance of the Festival; this year WITF ran only one exchange ad, which ran only the week prior to the Festival opening. This year, no ad at all ran in *Bay Windows*. This, together with Parker's statements, suggests that the Women in Theatre Festival is not just drifting away from our community but paddling fast and furiously away.

Finally, I find Parker's assertion that "there is something in the tone of the review that suggests that the Festival should cease to be" and example of rather Nixonian paranoia: any criticism at all renders the critic an Enemy of the People. Parker has somehow managed to forget that GCN has given the Women in Theatre Festival a double-page center spread every year (and the cover twice), and that last year I specifically thanked the Festival organizers, in print, for their time and energy and urged others to join in the work. I do remain concerned that the Women in Theatre Festival not leapfrog into the mainstream on the backs of the feminist and queer community and then abandon us.

In solidarity & struggle,
Mara Math
Somerville, MA

GayCommunityNews

Cover design by Dan Mishkind
Photo by Sharon Farmer

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of eleven, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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Speaking Out

Rude Gestures of Defiance

By Catherine Lohr

On Saturday, June 13, 1987, Lesbian and Gay Citizens who are in the Boston area will have another opportunity to raise a collective shout of rage almost without fear of reprisal.

On Saturday, June 13th, 1987, we have one more opportunity to wrap ourselves in the spirit of revolt and refuse to take IT anymore. Surrounded on all sides by more and more queer, we can reject self-homophobia, we can stare down the homophobe-on-the-street, we can remind media-cum-homophobe that we are a nation that will not be silent.

We have the power, on Saturday, June 13th, 1987, to stop traffic, disobey red lights, touch, embrace and commit rude gestures of defiance; to rub their noses in us!

We will not go away. We will make them understand that we do not accept those breaches of our civil liberties that leave us subject to rental eviction, casual brutality and assault, legal indifference or personal indignities.

We have one more chance, on Saturday, June 13th, 1987, to shake ourselves up; to turn an angry eye towards the quantity of "isms" in the larger society and within our own microcosmos. We can reject anti-Semitism, racism, sexism, fat-hating and adonis-ism. With the

We'll all spend money that day. The same people who would lock us up and put us away will want to sell us things that day. On Saturday, June 13th, 1987, we don't have to support them; we will erect a mini village for that day and our needs will be met by queers. There will be queer food to buy, queer clothing (T-shirts) to buy, hot dogs, hamburgers and baked goods to buy. The words and music will be made by our mouths and hands — even a queer flag will fly for the patriot.

As usual we will be everywhere. On Saturday, June 13th, 1987, we will command the radio waves (on WMBR radio), we will swell the streets of Boston and show ourselves in self-joy and public anger.

On Saturday, June 13th, 1987, dukakis will again feel the persistent prickly-heat of our wrath, the herald newspaper will be shown for trash by our own *Gay Community News* and *Bay Windows*; the globe newspaper will be ignored when they come to us for a nice quote. We are the world, on Saturday, June 13th, 1987.

On Saturday, June 13th, 1987, we can be a revolting presence. We can tap our own source of magic and power just by looking at ourselves in our rainbow splendor — in numbers that demand we be heard!

Join your community early to see what may be a national (maybe international?) first — a queer-identified flag being flown from a municipal building. Join the pre-Pride festivities at our new gathering location, Boston City Hall Plaza at 11 am. The march kicks off at noon sharp! On Saturday, June 13th, 1987, our revolution needs YOU!

Catherine Lohr is a (retiring) co-coordinator with the Boston Lesbian and Gay Pride Planning Committee (aka The Pride Committee) who is committed to the enactment of civil liberties for Lesbians and Gays. This article may not reflect the views of the entire Pride Committee membership, but she can't imagine who would object!

"Speaking Out" is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings, and comments to us and we encourage you to respond to any ideas expressed in this space. Submissions to "Speaking Out" should be TYPED and DOUBLE SPACED, and, if possible, held to under 5 pages in length. The GCN staff collective reserves the right to limit length and number of signatures in "Speaking Out." The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper, the staff, or the advertisers. Write c/o Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

*On Saturday, June 13th, 1987,
we can be a revolting presence. We can
tap our sources of magic and power just by
looking at ourselves in our rainbow
splendor — in numbers that
demand we be heard!*

might of perhaps 50,000 queers in single-minded revolt, we can remind mother, brother, father and others that we break bread with them, shop, pray, work, rent, sun, swim, ail, travel, drink, birth, cry, photograph, "T," and even die with them.

On Saturday, June 13th, 1987, we can be strong, we can be swish, we can be Black, Asian, Jew, in wheelchairs, with feathers, fat, blond, pimpled or professional, but we don't have to be silent!

Community Voices

support the parental leave bills

Dear GCN:

If you care about the quality of family life in Massachusetts, you should know about the parental leave measures now before the State Legislature and the U.S. Congress. The state Parenting Leave Act (H5200) is a critical piece of legislation, and one which is long overdue. The bill would allow a working parent (either a mother or a father) to take up to 18 weeks leave to care for a newborn or adopted child. It would establish a wage replacement fund enabling employees to receive 60% of their income for up to 12 weeks of their leave. And it would ensure that employees retain health insurance coverage during the leave and do not suffer loss of job, seniority, or work-related benefits as a result of the leave.

The maternity leave statute we now have in Massachusetts is grossly inadequate. It allows only 8 weeks and is restricted to female workers. As a matter of equity and economic necessity parental leave should include both working mothers and fathers. In addition, parents should have the option of remaining at home longer with their newborn. And there are very few daycare centers that accept infants at 8 weeks.

The federal parenting leave bill, the Family and Medical Leave Act (HR 925 and SR 429) is currently before Congress. The federal bill would

allow employees up to 18 weeks of unpaid leave for the birth or adoption of a child, or for the care of a child who is seriously ill. (The House version also includes up to 18 weeks leave for the care of a seriously ill parent.) Employees with serious health conditions would be allowed up to 26 weeks unpaid leave.

It is time for society to recognize that the economic structure of our nation has changed dramatically over the past 20 years. Today, less than 10% of American families meet the "traditional" model of one adult employed outside the home and one working in the home. Most families depend on two incomes to survive, and most of the 50 million women employed outside the home do so out of economic necessity. Over 60% of mothers with children under 3 years old are in the labor force. At least 60% of employed women have no paid maternity benefits that permit even a six-week leave of absence for childbirth.

I urge all constituents to contact your state and federal legislators in support of these two bills. Now that almost everyone is in the workplace, we need to ensure that working people are able to have children and be good parents.

Lenora Lapidus
Somerville, MA

why do gays prefer communism?

Dear GCN:

I do not wish to continue my subscription to the *Gay Community News*. I took the subscription only to try to find out something about the gay people and, if possible, how they think.

Especially why they would prefer total slavery under communism than some freedom under a republic. I would not be surprised, if when the communists do take total control that they do send all homosexuals to the gas chamber or to slave labor camps for re-education. I do believe that this has happened in all communist nations to the present times. Perhaps the AIDS epidemic will make this action unnecessary. No doubt the AIDS epidemic will take a tremendous toll on the world's population, both straight and homo, without regard to political philosophy.

In my many years of observing mankind I find

that most of us have a built-in self destruct or punishment mechanism. This may be overeating, overworking, alcohol, drugs, or rebelling against the norms or customs of their society in which they live. These things or actions do not make for the greatest happiness. This does not mean that we should never question authority or the aspects of our culture. However, with the homosexual he has not only brought great misery upon himself but has also destroyed his lineage or genealogy. Perhaps this is good; they do not have children to be sentenced to a life of communist slavery, and that just might be the answer (vengeance) why they follow the communist philosophy.
William F. Sharp
Ogden, Utah

Lesbian/Gay Pride Weekend Boogie for Free

GCN and the Boston-Area Pledge of Resistance are co-sponsoring two (2!) Lesbian/Gay Pride gala benefits and we need volunteers to help out, in return for a free ticket.

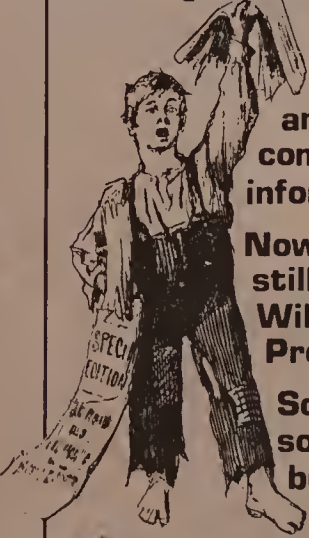
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Call Anne Phibbs to sign up, preferably at 625-8879 evenings, or if necessary, at 426-7075 days.

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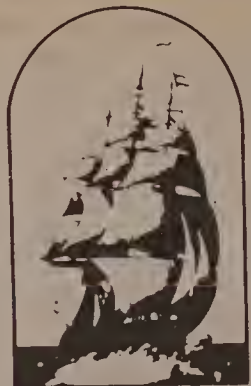
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Volunteers spark Sisterfire festival Making Music Happen

By Jennie McKnight

Between 35 and 40 women are crammed into the common room of a rowhouse in Washington, D.C. They are discussing camping policy for the upcoming Sisterfire music and culture festival. Since this year will be the first in which camping is available, a decision must be made about whether to provide women-only and/or co-ed camping. Each woman in the room speaks in turn for a few minutes. Everyone listens, and interrupting the speaker is not allowed. Opinions vary wildly. After two complete cycles through the group, the discussion is postponed until the next meeting, two weeks away. At the next meeting, after still more discussion following the same format, a decision to accommodate both women-only and mixed camping is reached (with those in disagreement allowing the decision to carry).

The women are called Sister-sparks, and they are the primary source of the energy and creativity that produce the two-day outdoor Sisterfire festival. They are volunteers in an organizational scheme that is hierarchical in structure but extremely fluid and participatory in process.

Although the Sparks come to organize a festival, they also take part in the ongoing projects of Roadwork, a non-profit, community-based organization whose other work includes booking for the singing group Sweet Honey in the Rock and concert production. Unlike the organizations which produce other major women's music festivals, Roadwork which was founded in 1978, existed before Sisterfire itself (the other organizations were formed for the purpose of producing the festivals). For this reason, the goals and visions of Roadwork are the guiding principles for the programming and process of Sisterfire.

Organizers describe Sisterfire as a "multi-racial, multi-ethnic, cross-cultural display of women's talent, brought together by diverse facets of our community," who are "building bridges between the women's movement and other movements for progressive social change."

One look at the schedule of the festival performers confirms the commitment to diversity and bridge-building in programming. In addition to nationally known names like Alice Walker, Casselberry-Dupree and Holly Near, there are international performers like Norma Elena Gadea (Nicaragua's leading woman in the New Song movement), and Sistren (a Jamaican working class theater collective). Joy Harjo, a Native American poet, The Asian-American Dance Theater, and Ethel Raim, a singer from the Yiddish/Slavic/Balkan tradition, exemplify the diverse and not-so-well-known acts Sisterfire will bring to the only women's festival based near a major urban center.

Translating the goal of diversity into reality means that resources and decision-making processes had to be built into the festival planning. Penny Rosenwasser, the General Coordinator for Sisterfire, spent most of the fall researching various performers. In addition, programming committees of Sparks, Sisterfire staff and Roadwork Board members who represented "a diversity of tastes and backgrounds" were formed to find and fund local, national and international performers.

"If we booked the festival by what came across the desk, it would be a white folksinger festival," said Rosenwasser. She added that diversity and quality are the guiding principles of the programming decisions and that the artists selected have some kind of political perspective or message

When and Where of 1987 Festivals

As the softball gloves and barbecues come out of storage, and the wool and mothballs are reunited, dykes across the country are facing the annual spring decisions about summer vacations. For thousands of lesbians each year, these decisions are influenced by the where, when, who and how much of the six major women's music festivals held around the country during the summer.

This chart provides basic information about the festivals, but please contact the organizations for complete information. (Ticket prices are based on advance purchase, full-festival attendance, but in some cases daily passes, work-exchange or special prices are available.)

FESTIVAL	PRICE	CONTACT
<i>Southern</i> May 22-25 60 miles outside Atlanta	\$95-105	13514 Hart St. Van Nuys, CA 91405 (818) 904-9495
<i>National</i> May 29-31 Bloomington, IN	\$80 workshops and performances \$35 for food \$15/night for dorm room	P.O. Box 5217 Bloomington, IN 47402 (317) 637-4938
<i>Sisterfire!</i> June 27, 28 Near Washington, DC	\$30 \$10 campsite	1475 Harvard St. Washington, DC 20009 (202) 483-1010 TTY only: (202) 234-9309
<i>Michigan</i> Aug. 12-16 Near Hart, MI	\$125-145	WWTMC, Box 22 Walhalla, MI 49458 (616) 757-4766 after June 10
<i>NEWMR</i> Sept. 4-7 Near Providence	\$105-130	NEWMR P.O. Box 217 New Haven, CT (203) 523-1268
<i>West Coast</i> Sept. 3-7 Near Yosemite, CA		same as Southern

which is compatible with the goals of Sisterfire.

Another new addition to this year's programming which grew out of the visions of the organization and the volunteers is the Stage for Deaf Artists, where deaf artists will perform and deaf women can get training in production. Assistant Coordinator of the festival, Marian, who began her work on the project as a Spark, explained how the concept for the stage had developed: "Some of the women who had been working with Sisterfire were looking to expand the role of deaf culture in the festival. They were trying to move away from a definition of accessibility which was limited to making *hearing* events accessible to the deaf community, thus leaving all the control of production and cultural expression in the hands of hearing people." An autonomous subcommittee of deaf and hearing women was formed to do the programming and organizing for the stage.

"The Stage for Deaf Artists is a culmination of a lot of learning on the part of the people at Roadwork," said Lynne Gelzer, a Spark since 1982 who is helping produce the stage. "I'm excited because I [as a volunteer] was perceived as someone with skills and ideas who could be creative and take risks in ways that hadn't been done before."

Rosenwasser said the participation by the Sparks in all organizing aspects of the festival this year has been phenomenal. "The Sparks are involved in nearly all decisions concerning the festival, from selection of the new site to whether or not to sell alcohol, from ticket prices to t-shirt styles."

Gelzer added, "This year more than ever before, people who have not been in positions of power are beginning to have more input. This gives me a real sense of ownership about the organization that I didn't have before."

According to Marian, Roadwork has taken steps this year to evaluate and improve the way the

organization recruits and keeps the large number of volunteers who not only organize Sisterfire but also support the other Roadwork projects and productions. "The Board, staff and volunteers have identified as a major area of concern learning better how to integrate volunteers and also learning how to show an appreciation for them more."

A Volunteer Steering Committee made up of staff, volunteers and board members began working in the early fall with a consultant and revised the orientation process for volunteers. "The craziness of the 'event-orientation' of Sisterfire and nature of a non-profit organization creates an environment where people who make the initial contact to help out can fall through the cracks," said Marian. "We needed to develop a way to give personal attention to each person who calls or comes in." In addition, the committee has expanded the ways in which volunteers could participate in the organization, for example, by special work days for volunteers who can't come to the meetings scheduled during evenings.

La Saramiento, an enthusiastic first-year Spark, said she felt comfortable working on Sisterfire from her first day at Roadwork. "I felt at home right from the beginning. This is a fine network where new people can come in and immediately feel like they're making a contribution. One reason I think this is true is because a lot of time during our [Spark] meetings is devoted to understanding *each other* in addition to carrying on the business of running a festival."

"By the end of the festival, we'll see how well it's working," said Rosenwasser. "We're building something special here, and it's a long, slow process — but I really think things are changing. I also try to remember what Bernice Reagon says about working in coalition — that if it feels too comfortable, you're probably doing something wrong."

Continued on page 11

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GOT AN OUTLOOK ON THE FUTURE
ONE LOVE

By Jewelle Gomez

Thus reads the final love letter to Loz from Sephra, the dying warrior of Michelle Parkerson's short story "Odds and Ends" which appears in her collection of poetry and prose, *Waiting Rooms*. The story is one of the few works of fantasy fiction published by a Black woman and tells a harsh yet romantic tale for desire and heroism. This poetic note offers a small insight into the spirit that surrounds the work of Michelle Parkerson. Her films, poetry and fiction are suffused with the light of mysticism, commitment and reality. They seem to both investigate and celebrate as if Parkerson would see the world from all outer angles and still insist you know the world's most important inner core. If a lesbian sensibility is ever to be defined it will most assuredly include Michelle's name. Her poems and stories ring with the sensuality of women loving women. Her works on film — which include a profile of jazz singer, Betty Carter; *Gotta Make this Journey*, a documentary about the a capella singing group, *Sweet Honey in the Rock* and the recently released *Stormé: The Lady of the Jewel Box* — all glow with same quality.

In a recent telephone interview, I talked with Michelle Parkerson, a native of Washington, DC, about the development of her interest in media after her initial focus on theater at Temple University, and about racism, the economics and politics of being an artist, and her vision. We had much in common. We both studied theater and had worked in film and video professionally. Often we'd had parallel experiences in our attempts to use technology to expound on and celebrate the Black lesbian experience. Laughter and sighs of recognition overlapped our words. The rhythm of talking was that of two women with not nearly enough time together but who knew where the heart was. The questions were of cursory import. Michelle's responses filled those gaps in history that we, as communicators pledged to light with our testimony.

JG: Which art form did you work in first?

MP: Writing came first. I've always loved to write. I've not always done it successfully and am yet learning how to write. It was just something I liked from childhood. But then I got involved in film at the university between 1970 and 1974. I switched from theater to media and film production in my sophomore year because the theater curriculum was rather limited for Black students in terms of performance. You knew you would never get to be the lead in anything. So after I got all of the technical classes under my belt, why stay there? I found that media, radio and film were all a natural extension of performance and of writing. The underpinning of all the productions that you undertake is a written structure, a treatment to expound on your ideas. So you've got



Stormé DeLarverie, 1986

to be able to write in order to produce. In order to translate vision to concept and concept to product, you've got to be able to write.

JG: What were your earliest or most vivid media memories?

MP: The omnipotence of television was something that those of us growing up in the 1950s were witness to. I remember very vividly things like the [1963] march on Washington; after Kennedy was killed seeing Lee Harvey Oswald's assassination while I was eating cereal. Most of our history was fed to us via this visual medium. A lot of people today rely on television to tell them what happened before and what's happening now and what to expect. Luckily reading filled in the blanks for me, because we needed that. Seeing the March on Washington knowing my parents were there (I interrupted to ask if she was living in D.C. herself at this time).

Right! I was in D.C. seeing this event unfold on television! Isn't that deep! Talk about via, via, via!

Another influence was my mother. She was a very avid movie and theater goer and taught me to look at the lighting, look at the costumes by Adrian, the directing by Frank Capra. Look at what Vincente Minnelli did here with Ava Gardner. And we used to watch Loretta Young religiously. That was my real contact with the world of film and theater and artists. She kindled that in me and my father was a great support once I knew I liked theater. He used to run me to auditions all the time. They were great to have because few parents understand kids who want to be artists, or even adults who want to be artists!

JG: Tell me the difference for you between working in video and in film.

MP: Each has its own beauty; its own relationship to light and shadow and color. The wonder of the process is exploring what each has to offer and how it lends that to whatever subject matter you focus on. Video, for me, is a more immediate showcase. We are used to seeing video, i.e., the six o'clock news; most of the things we see on TV are video generated. But we see film as a more theatrical experience. Even when seeing it in theaters that are little tiny boxes, we see film as something that immortalizes. You can see video now on large screens but it's not the same experience. It's still a more intimate medium. And film is more epic. I enjoy the immortalization process that is film, to create an epic moment that's blazing across people's memory. And I enjoy video if it's something you want people to get into and remember it because you got that close to a person so candidly.

JG: In the 1960s when Blacks made major inroads into television, there was a constant battle with white technicians: make-up artists, lighting designers, etc., who didn't know how to deal with dark skin tones and directors who didn't care that Black people looked green or that their features faded. In your video about *Sweet Honey in the Rock*, the quality of color and texture is magnificent, as if you were a painter. How do you work on that or do you?

MP: The process is kind of miraculous because there

Filmmaker Michelle Parkerson Getting the Word Out

are so many ways that the image has to filter through other people and technology to get to be what we see. I'm very aware of the image and the flaws in my work so that each production is another training stage for me to get better at it. I'm constantly struggling to perfect the imagery. That is so important when you're trying to convey a message. A lot of filmmakers with political fervor have felt in the past that



it's okay if the stuff is out of focus or the sound is not actually up to snuff. The issue itself (housing or welfare mothers for example) is supposed to carry you through a poorly made film or a technically flawed film. In the mainstream media, as in your experience, it doesn't matter how Black folks come across in a visual experience. It doesn't matter about the range of what we are, the many different colors and textures of what we are. There's no such palette in a mainstream media sensibility. With *Sweet Honey*, it was kind of natural because they presented themselves the way they are: very vibrant, vocally and visually. It was also inherent in the subject itself. The image was very important.

In *Stormé* [Parkerson's new film] there is an interesting friction of visual imagery. There are scenes that are very theatrically lit, nightclub and nighttime scenes in New York City that have the reds, the blues, the siennas. There are some scenes that are strictly *verité*, whatever light was there we got it, like in a storage place or the back of a Yellow Cab at three o'clock in the morning. Whatever light was on 45th Street we took. I happen to have two great cinematographers with wonderful eyes. I've always prayed for a cadre or just one cinematographer who could work with consistency to help me work out my vision. And I've been blessed here.

JG: What drew you to the Jewel Box Revue? [The subject of Michelle's newest film is a popular troupe of female impersonators and *Stormé*, a woman cross-dresser who worked and toured with them.]

Stormé DeLarverie is 66 years old and doing well as a bodyguard in New York City. She's full of show biz lore and a lot of streetwise knowledge. Her father was white, her mother was Black and she grew up in New Orleans in the '20s. So there's a whole 'nother — 'nother kind of history built into that, layers and layers of America. Show biz stuff but also political stuff.

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Michelle Parkerson: about Where We've Been

MP: The idea has been with me for a while. My mother was talking to my aunt about it and it caught my attention. She talked about how the one woman was dressed as a man and the men were dressed as women. I, at twelve, was not supposed to be hearing this kind of "perversion," of course. And forever my interest was sparked. Twenty years later, processing through my own coming out as a Black lesbian, the

of the best selling shows they ever had at the Howard Theater here in D.C. It did the chitlin circuit: Baltimore, Chicago, etc. So it has some fascinating history and people involved in it.

Ultimately it's more a profile of Stormé DeLarverie. I see and understand the dearth of material about male impersonation, let alone about a Black woman who was a male impersonator in that particular period of time. Storme is still with us. She's 66 years old and doing well as a bodyguard in New York City. She's full of show biz lore and a lot of streetwise knowledge. Her father was white, her mother was Black and she grew up in New Orleans in the '20s. So there's a whole 'nother — 'nother kind of history built into that, layers and layers of America. Show biz stuff but also political stuff. And about how



Marilyn Humphries



Michelle Parkerson, Boston, April 1987

That's what I have in common with other Black independent filmmakers. We want to demystify the process and say: We can all tell our stories. And there's a way for these stories to get out and not just be in cans on somebody's shelf. Masses can see it. That's where the power of it is for me as a political person.

idea came to me. Finding this as a way to express some sense of the history and sense of the pride about who I am as a woman who loves women; how I feel about my brothers who love men. And how I feel about men and women who choose cross-dressing as a form of expression and who chose to take on the art of illusion which is what impersonation really is all about.

What was embodied in the Jewel Box Revue was that sense of the art form. It was a lavish show on the level of the Folies Bergères. Fabulous costumes, wonderful set design, original music, comedy; not the kind of lip-synching that we associate with drag shows now. It was the first successful touring show of female impersonators in American history. And it was one of the first successful integrated female impersonation shows. It was composed of white, Black, Hispanic and Native American performers and toured the Black theater circuit in the 1950s and '60s when segregation was still the word. It was very successful at the Apollo Theater [in Harlem] and was one

one takes a touring company of female impersonators by car across the country, through the South. Being stopped on highways by state troopers because they were a mixed group. And then they find out the person who's driving the convertible is, in fact, a woman dressed as a man and in the car are Blacks and whites. It was way out!

The film was a good way to get my feet wet because I wanted to make more statements about the experience of Black lesbians and gay people. And I still want to do it in a dramatic form after I see this film through this process. There are so many stories and ain't nobody started to tell them yet. How many scripts, how many films, how many videos could come out of our experience. We could tell our own lives on film. That's what I have in common with other Black, independent filmmakers. We want to demystify the process and say: You have access to this. We can all tell our stories. And there's a way for these stories to get out and not just be in cans on somebody's shelf. Masses can see it. It's amazing for

me to realize where *Gotta Make This Journey* has been seen. People call from Mali, from Hackensack. Media reach is amazing. That's where the power of it is for me as a political person.

JG: Do you think that money is one of the reasons we don't work in film and video as much as others do?

MP: Money is a monster and if I sound a little caustic it's because I'm trying to finish the film under pressure of deadline with very little money. A lot of it has to do with subject matter. After you have some experience that people acknowledge and you're out here looking for money you find that the subject matter, like in the case of *Stormé*, has a lot to do with the difficulty in finding funding. *Gotta Make This Journey* was done fast, Bang! Four months and completed. *Stormé* has been two years. But then the Betty Carter film took four years!

With *Stormé* it's been very tough, although it has been interesting to see who has supported it. I was surprised that the Corporation for Public Broadcasting became one of the major funders. With Reagan as he is, the type of projects that CPB funds often reflect the attitudes of the administration. And this is not necessarily one of them!

JG: There is an intense fire in much of your writings. How does that translate in your visual work?

MP: Fire is the word you used and that's your experience of it. I don't know that I'd use that word. But if fire is what you want to talk about I think that the writing is a more reflective form of expression for me whereas the films and videos focus on outward and try to get your attention about other people in the world who are making contributions or making wonderful disturbances in the world. So it's not so much a mirror. Although it is a mirror in some sense: it does reflect our experience as Black women and people out here trying to survive on this planet. It's all there whether you focus on a person or even on a group who do a certain thing. So I think if there's fire in the visual material it comes from the experience of these people being candid with me.

JG: Are you going to work on more of your writing [I asked full of hope]?

MP: There should be a book coming out this year from Essex Hemphill's press, Be Bop Books [D.C.]. It's called *Hemlines and Handkerchiefs*. While the film has been going through its transitions I've been blessed to be able to write more essays and that anchors me. Ideally it would be nice to be able to do film one-half of the year and then write the other half. The essays are a new exercise that I'm really enjoying and a therapy for me while I'm trying to finish this film. A lot of the essays have been about either the project itself or about Black women filmmakers.

JG: Who are the people you either saw, read about, made you think, or drew you along into shaping your art?

MP: There's a long list because people give you all kinds of things and some of them are not recognized in any public sense at all. It's just awesome! You know, why give a running list of half of my world! You know like Aunt Mildred. I mean where would I be without Aunt Mildred!

Fire may not be the word that Michelle Parkerson would use to describe her work. Perhaps fire is simply the result of experiencing her work. Fire as in excitement, the urge to move and shake the world she's just given us in a few, short lines or strips of celluloid. Fire like I felt when I heard her poem "Convalescence," from Waiting Rooms.

*You detect scars
as words escape these mouths
Nerve burlesque endings
in splintered smiles*

*My sisters are the casualties
the saviors of worlds
we do not create*

*Running wounds
open sores
urge our dreams.*

Waiting Rooms can be ordered from Common Ground Press, P.O. Box 50368, Washington DC 20004.

Stormé, the Lady of the Jewel Box will have its west coast premiere in San Francisco at the International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, June 19-27. In July, it will be shown in London at the National Film Theatre. For booking information write: Eye of the Storm Productions, 1716 Florida Ave. NW #2, Washington, DC, 20009.

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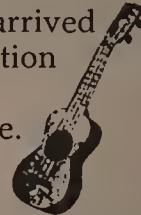
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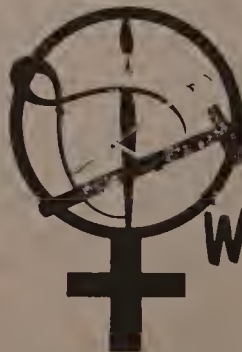
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Making Music

Continued from page 7

For those of us who attend Sisterfire, we'll have a chance to see for ourselves how well the organization is working. But after the last stage is broken down and the last piece of snow fencing is rolled up, the most satisfied folks around will undoubtedly be the Sparks.

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Norfolk Prison Protest

Continued from page 1

given the most up to date information we have."

"It is against prison regulations to engage in any kind of sexual activity," added Darnell. "Our policy is that inmates should abstain from these kinds of activities." Drug use is also prohibited, but Darnell acknowledged both activities occur in DOC institutions.

"There's a lot of drugs and a lot of people who take part in sexual activities," said Rashad. "It does go on whether people want to acknowledge it or not."

According to Darnell, 12 prisoners within the system have been diagnosed with AIDS. Six of

those have died. People with AIDS are sent to Boston's Shattuck Hospital upon diagnosis, said Darnell.

Rashad claims that the DOC figures for people with AIDS are inaccurate. "There's been more than 11 people with AIDS at Norfolk alone that either have AIDS or ARC," he said. "And I know that there is more than six who have died from the disease. One [man] they [prison officials] said died from pneumonia, but he died from AIDS. Another guy died from organ failure, but it was AIDS."

General conditions at the prison

Problems at Norfolk have been intensifying for the past two years, said Rashad. Issues of concern include medical care, food, visitation rights and operation of the classification board which decides whether prisoners are eligible for a lower security prison.

Food, said Rashad, is transported to prisoners via an underground tunnel. "It's dirty, full of asbestos and there's a lot of rats," said Rashad. "It's not a healthy situation."

"Medical treatment is not good at all," continued Rashad. "If you get a minor injury on Friday or Saturday, they tell you you have to wait until Monday to see a doctor

and they'll give you a couple of aspirin [until then]."

Also at issue were plans for Black Solidarity day, an event which has been held for a number of years, according to Rashad. This year prison officials are putting numerous restrictions on the event.

Darnell told *GCN* that all of the prisoners' concerns are invalid. "The [DOC] commissioner's assessment of those complaints is that they were truly a smokescreen for those inmates who were attempting to control and take over operation of the facility," she said.

Call for an investigation

A number of organizations have called on Governor Michael Dukakis to initiate an independent investigation into the handling of the protest. The May 15 call was signed by the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Lawyer's Guild, the American Friends Service Committee, the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, Prisoners Family Group of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Black Legislative Caucus, Former State Senator Jack Backman, Church Action for Safe & Just Communities of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ and Church of the United Community in Roxbury.

"The grievances presented by the prisoners at MCI Norfolk represent serious and legitimate concerns," said the May 15 statement. "...DOC Commissioner Michael Fair has summarily dismissed these grievances without discussion. We therefore demand an immediate, impartial, independent investigation of the grievances, the alleged beating which sparked the non-violent demonstrations, and the DOC's actions during the past three days, including the denial of the fundamental right to legal counsel of the prisoners at MCI Norfolk."

Washington March

Continued from page 3

LaRouche, the Pope and the Supreme Court have outraged us all. Fighting back is the best response." She believes that organizers must put aside ideological differences to make this a historic event. "We have worked out a compromise acceptable to almost everybody. We have become more and more aware of how to include different people and different issues."

Lee Burke, the staff person of the national steering committee, claims that many of the problems faced are technical. He says that besides a shortage of money, organizers will face transportation and housing problems during the week of the March. These are now the most pressing problems because people have begun to trust one another and put aside their differences in favor of a united front, he told *GCN*.

March information can be obtained from the national office at (202) 783-1828.

—filed from Boston

Amsterdam Raid

Continued from page 1

been no arrests or convictions under the new law, but it is considered on its face to be more draconian than U.S. federal law. Under U.S. federal law, a photograph must depict sexual activity or a "lascivious exhibition of the genitals" in order to be proscribed as "child pornography."

W. J. van Bennekom, attorney for photographer Don Mader, called the raid and seizure, "totally unprecedented in recent Dutch history" and the law "out of touch with contemporary Dutch moral standards."

Various sources in Holland have said the law was passed in response to U.S. diplomatic pressure. Sources also note an increase over the past year in related law enforcement aimed at foreign nationals and U.S. citizens living abroad.

—filed from New York

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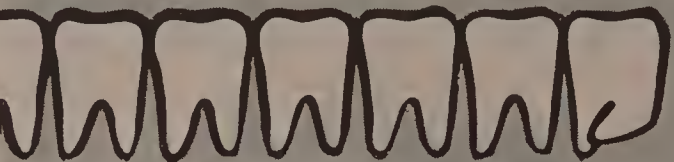
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Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist.



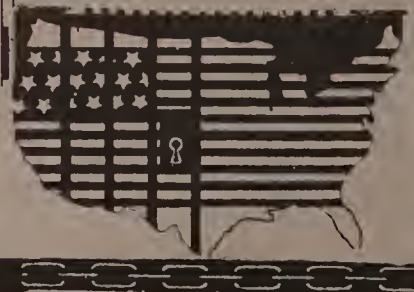
PRISONERS! Please send us some doodles, drawings, poems and poetic scribbles for this summer's prisoner centerspread of poetry and drawings. DON'T WORRY if you aren't a 'pro'! Some of your heart-felt jottings and scribbles are the best we ever see! (But if we're lucky and get a FLOOD of stuff, please don't be pissed if we can't put in everything. THANKS!



Tom in TX Dept. of Corruptions seeks release via the snail service, with young/old, male/female, gay/bi, tall/short, fat/thin, white/brown/black/yellow/red/green) YOU! My interests include sun & fun, sex & sincerity, writing & receiving letters, reading, legal issues and collecting postcards (among many others!) A stamp and a photo gets you a prompt reply and photo of: Tom L. BUTLER, 389367, Rt 4 Box 1200, Rosharon TX 77583.

PHOTOS for Prisoners!!
Color Lab will make reprints of pictures and accept postage stamps as payment. A prisoner has recommended them. Send \$2.30 in stamps for one 8X10, OR three 5X7s, OR ten wallet size photos; polaroid or snapshots ok. Originals returned. Color Lab, 8 Burnett Ave, Maplewood NJ 07040.

Gay man, 34, into outdoors, painting landscapes, writing and learning about the law, would love to hear from TV/TS queens, gay/bi men. Supporter of NAMBLA, active, passive, etc etc, (& quivering cock chock full of yummy cummy...) Send SASE for fast reply. Tommy M. BLANKENSHIP, 195-152, PO Box 5500, Chillicothe OH 45601.



ORGANIZATIONS

DOB
Support organization for leabians, 1151 Mass Ave, Camb. OCBC. Raps every Tues, Thurs at 8:pm. Special raps for 35+, parents, ynger women, baby boomers, singles, coming out, issues forum. All 8pm. Monthly events, outing club, library. Info: 661-3633. All women invited to participate. (V14.35)

BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER
Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 580 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114. (V14.15)

BOSTON ALLIANCE OF GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH
Social support group for youth 22 and under. Wednesday night general meeting from 7:30 to 9pm. New persons meeting at 6:30; Women's meeting at 6. Call 497-8282 for info. (32)

LESBIANS
Are you lesbian, Bisexual or unsure? Looking for a group to go to? Come join us at BAGLY. Call Tony, 497-8282 (V14.32)

PROJECT TRUTH/FREE WILL
Info packet on police abuse of gay teens, and ways it can be stopped. 1 yr membership \$20. Info \$2 (for postage & printing) to: Project TRUTH/Free Will, PO Box 244, Paramus, NJ 07653-0244. (15.9)

MAN/BOY LOVE
A support group for intergenerational relationships. For more information send \$1 to: NAMBLA-GCNAD at 537 Jones ST. NO 8418, S.F. CA 94102 or PO Box 174, New York, New York 10018. (V15.23)



I'm a gay Black female who's doing hard time (15-30 yrs) and would like some mail from gay women or men. I can't write other prisoners but I enjoy writing poems and letters, so I would like to share some of my time with a nice friend. Thank you. Roslynn TATE, 7271, Box 180, Muncy PA 17756

Remember Our Sisters Inside (ROSI)

ROSI is an art network for women in prison. We reproduce art from women behind bars as stationery, greeting cards, postcards, and posters, providing prisoners and former prisoners with an outlet for your creativity. Contributions to support our work can be made out to ROSI/San Francisco Women's Building, and sent to ROSI, 2144 Shattuck Ave, 504-2077, Berkeley CA 94704. We can also use stamps, office supplies, printing service help, and labor power. Please become a ROSI member today. Drop us a line.



I'm so lonely in this place that it's very hard at times to explain to someone here. I only have a couple of friends in here and they are busy a lot. You probably have a hundred letters like this to read. Thank you for reading mine too. I like the GCN and hope to get some more. It's a comfort. If I could write someone out there, it would be a help. Terrence BASTIAN, A-088520, Rt 2 Box 13-A, Immokalee FL 33934.

If you could find any room for my name in the GCN, maybe someone who has more on their mind than "dicks" (like these phonies in here) would like to befriend me. It's been hard holding together since my mom died recently and they wouldn't even let me go to her funeral. I could use a good conversation. Lamont PATTERSON, P-8781, Drawer R, Huntingdon PA 16652.

Very hairy body builder, love it up my ass. Race no issue. Long thick ones best; love for it to hurt some up my butt. Write nasty letter. Can't write prisoners (sorry). Larry (Wolf) STEVENS, 49282, 818 Jefferson Ave, Moundsville WV 26041.

I want to meet a transsexual. I'm willing to do anything to meet a transsexual. Thank you. Bennie Lee SMITH, 071034, Box 578 (D-36), Crestview FL 32536.

I'm a pre-op transsexual ex-con and would like to be in touch with people who can understand what I may be going thru now. Prisoners very welcome to write. Thank you. Tommie HENDERSON, Box 733, Picataway NJ 08855.

Bull balls, no body hair, large blue eyes, long lashes and large pink cock head. Write sexy letter to Richard UNDERWOOD, 12003, Huttonsville CC, PO Box 1-D-9, Huttonsville WV 26273.

I'm an outgoing fellow who enjoys rock music and cabaret shows and long, how sex (giving and receiving). I'm in isolation ('protection') now and sure could use some conversation. Charles P. WILEY, A-640517 (484), 1150 SW Allapattah Rd, Indiantown FL 33456.

I would really enjoy some mail. I like art, poems, and reading (a lot). Please write, Charles DePIERRO, 82A 6268, PO Box AG, Fallsburg NY 12733.

Do you love to wear silk panties, paint your nails or just cuddle up to a man who will be devoted to your pleasure? Who hasn't but might not mind wearing silk panties for you? Do you love having your man dressed nice for you? Please write Lincoln SWEARS, 136554, Box 1000, Craigsville VA 24430.

I'm serving a 3 year sentence for 2 ounces of marijuana. And my (so-called) friends have abandoned me ("queer criminal" that I am). I need someone to brighten these lonely days. Not looking to hurt or use anyone. Just need a friend. Stevie LANGE, Rt 1 Box 36, Jackson NC 27845.

I'm an artist and lover of the outdoors and would like to have a penpal please. "Sparkle", 172-495, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.



CALENDAR

**May 23
to
June 13**

23 saturday

Boston — Interview/info. on women and AIDS. WMFO 91.5 fm., 11am.

Boston — "Self-Delusions," photographs by **Claude Emile Furones** continues at the Skylight Gallery, Pate Poste Adcards, 43 Charles St. Through May 30. Info: 720-2855.

Boston — Picnic with BILGA to Harbor Islands. Info: Jeff or Wendy, 437-7399.

Provincetown — Ten Percent Revue performs. Gifford House Cabaret, 9 Carver St. 8pm. \$8. Also on Sunday & Monday. Info: 487-0688.

24 sunday

Boston — Boston's Other Voice: interview with **Peter Dimuro** of **Moving Men** dancers. WROR 98.5fm. 12:30-1am.



Peter Shwartz

Moving Men, 29 friday

26 tuesday

Boston — Mass. Lesbian & Gay Bar Association quarterly meeting. Cabot Aud., Appalachian Mtn. Club, 5 Joy St. 7pm. Social hour. 5:30pm. Info: Maureen Monks, 492-5110.

Provincetown — Tiffany Club spring outing. Boatslip Beach Club. \$100 per person, \$150 per couple. Info: Laura Granger, 358-5575 or 358-2305.

27 wednesday

Cambridge — Boston Bisexual Men's Network. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, Mass Ave. 7:30pm. Info: 247-6683.

Boston — Protest Mass. House passage of anti-gay foster parenting and adoption ban. Meet at State House steps, noon. Info: GLDC, 661-7737.

28 thursday

Boston — Lesbian & Gay Pride planning committee meeting. 34 Edgerly Rd. 7pm. Every Thursday night, all welcome. Info: 267-2113.

Somerville — THEATRE S. presents the American premiere of Fassbinder's play **Marilyn Monroe vs. The Vampires**. 227 Broadway. Thurs.-Sat. through June 13. Info: 623-5510.

Boston — Protest **Ed Meese** speaking at New England School of Law commencement. 12 noon. Info: 628-6513.

29 friday

Waltham — Las Vegas Night to benefit the Support Committee for Battered Women. Quality Inn, Totten Pond Rd. \$2. Info: 891-0724.

Cambridge — LEGACY monthly potluck dinner at the Elders Center, 15 Pearl St. 6pm. Info: Ann Maguire, 725-3485.

Worcester — Gallery 69 A presents a two-person exhibit by Stanley L. Moore and Dana Medina. Opening reception: 2-5pm. 69A Hammond St. Through 6/14. Info: 756-6681.

Boston — Mobius Performing Group's annual presentation of **Persephone and Hades**. 354 Congress St. 8pm. Info: 542-7416. Through May 31.

Boston — **Moving Men**: An Evening of Choreography by Men presented by Dance Umbrella. Boston Conservatory Theater, 31 Hemenway Street. Info: 492-7578. Through May 31.

Brookline — Am Tikva discussion of "The Sanctuary Movement in Central America." 1762 Beacon St., Workmen's Circle. 8pm. Potluck reception afterwards.

Cambridge — **Black & White Men Together** video night. Info: 547-1986.

30 saturday

Cambridge — Let's Dance — an evening of dancing for women. Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 1151 Mass. Ave. 8:30pm-12:30am. \$5. Info: 625-3910.

Jamaica Plain — DanceArt Co. presents a "Double Take" performance, including *Les Femmes de Montagnes*. J.P. Art Center, 659 Centre St. 8:30pm. Free.

Boston — **Moving Violations'** 2nd annual benefit run to raise funds for the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center. Info: Maria, 666-2143.

Jamaica Plain — Battling Addictions, a workshop. YWCA Clarendon St., Boston, 2-5pm. \$10. Sponsored by Boston Institute for Social Therapy and Research. Info: 524-7710.

31 sunday

Jamaica Plain — Lesbian & gay neighbors' brunch. Doyle's, Washington St. 11am. Info: 522-3894.

Boston — "From All Walks of Life," a pledge walk to benefit AIDS care & research. Info: Contact Liz Page or Richard Giglio, AIDS Action Committee, 266-6906 or 437-6200.

Boston — Boston's Other Voice with host Peter Stickel. WROR, 98.5 FM. 12:30am, Monday morning.

Cambridge — Gay men's potluck social group. Info: David, 497-6197.

june 1 monday

Boston — Lesbian parenting discussion sponsored by the National Association of Social Workers. 7:30pm. Info: 227-9635 days, or 625-2609 eves.

Cambridge — Lesbian Rap: Legal Issues for Lesbian Couples. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. Info: 354-8807.

2 tuesday

Cambridge — Former Nun Lesbian Support Group. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., 7pm. Info: 354-8807.

3 wednesday

Cambridge — "Politics of Fat" discussion group. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge. 7:30-9:30pm. Free. Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge — Lesbian Al-Anon with childcare. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30-8pm. Info: 354-8807.

4 thursday

Boston — GCN's production night. All welcome. Proofreading: before 8PM. Paste-up: after 7PM. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

Cambridge — Gay & lesbian bowling night at Lanes and Games. Part of GLDC spring visibility campaign. Route 2 near Alewife rotary. 7pm. Info: 661-7737.



Virginia Rubino, 12 friday

Boston — Boston NOW Lesbian Rights Task Force meeting. 971 Comm. Ave. 6:30pm. Info: Lenora, 782-1056.

5 friday

Cambridge — Women's Coffeehouse. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8pm-midnight. Info: 354-8807.

Boston — GCN's volunteer night. All welcome to help mail GCN to its subscribers. Refreshments, good times. Anytime after 6PM. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

Cape Cod — Knowing Ourselves, Knowing Others. A weekend workshop for gay men to explore interpersonal relationships. \$200 includes room/board. Info: Francis Giambrone, (617) 628-6988.

6 saturday

Waltham — Video Preview of *The Battered Women's Story* produced by the Support Committee for Battered Women. 282 Moody Street, 4th floor. \$10-\$50. Info: 891-0724.

Boston — Photography by **Annie Leibowitz** at Robert Klein Gallery, 355 Boylston St. Through July 31. Info: 262-2278.

Boston — Chemical Free Dance Party (no alcohol, no smoking). Hill House, 74 Joy St. 9pm-1am. Info: 266-0314.

Portland, ME — Lesbian and Gay Pride Day. Info-line: (207) 883-6934.

Salem — North Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance annual Spring Auction. Old Town Hall. Preview 6pm, auction 7-11pm. Info: 639-1398.

South Hadley — **Alix Dobkin** in a woman-only concert. Pratt Auditorium, Mount Holyoke College. \$7-\$10. Info: (413) 586-8718.

7 sunday

Boston — Community forum on lesbian pornography sponsored by the Bad Attitude Collective. Panel and audience discussion. UMass-Boston, Arlington St. Noon-3pm.

1 thursday

Cambridge — Lesbians Choosing Children Network with childcare. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., 7:30pm. Info: 354-8807.

12 friday

Worcester — **Virginia Rubino** in concert with sculpture-artist **Jamie Johnston**. Noh Place Artist's Co-op, 117 Lovell St. 8pm. \$3. Also June 13. Info: 393-7632.

Cambridge — Lesbian Pride Concert presented by Daughters of Bilitis featuring **On Second Thought** and **Nan Donald**. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. Info: 277-8150.

13 saturday

Boston — Lesbian and Gay Pride March through Boston. Meet at 11am at the City Hall Plaza, Government Center. March begins at noon. Info: 267-2113.

Latina Lesbian Encuentro

The Primer Encuentro de Lesbianas Feministas Latinoamericanas y Caribenias is being planned for October 14-17 in Mexico City. Information can be requested from: L.A.L., Apartado Postal No. 22834, 14000 Mexico, D.F., Mexico, or from: L.A.L., c/o GLLU, 1213 No. Highland Ave., Hollywood, CA, 90038, USA.

Citing the worsening economic situation of Third World countries, the Gathering's Coordinating Group has issued a Lesbian Telegram calling for donations of any amount. For a \$20 contribution, they are offering a poster "depicting sophisticated pre-hispanic sexual techniques." U.S. checks can be sent to the Hollywood address above. International Money Orders (not in U.S. dollars) should be made out to Arte y Sociedad, and mailed to the Mexican address above.

Boston Pride '87

Pride will start off at a new location this year: City Hall Plaza, at Government Center T-stop. The Girlillas and the Freedom Trail Marching Band will lead off the pre-march rally at 11am. Paul Cronan, Lucy Blue Tremblay, United Fruit Company and Ten Percent Revue will be joined at the 2pm rally on the Common by more entertainers and speakers from Boston area groups. For more details, call 267-2113.

Fairy Home Companions

Minneapolis' gay/lesbian pride week will open with two one-man shows: "Taboo and Other Poems," by David Lindahl, and "A Fairy Home Companion," by Patrick Scully. See them June 18-20 at School Auditorium, 2123 Clinton Ave. South.

Gay Soccer

A new effort is being made to form a gay soccer league. All levels of players are welcome to participate. This could lead to a Boston team going to the next Gay Games. Call Jeff at 666-4283.

Take them home from the ballgame.

The Minuteman Classic IV Housing Committee is looking for housing for visitors during the 4th of July weekend. If interested, please call Neal, Garry, or John at 361-6156.

Submit

Amethyst, a journal for Lesbians and Gay Men welcomes submissions of fiction, non-fiction, poetry & drama. Send material and questions to S.A.M.E., 183 Sisson Ave., Atlanta, GA 30317.

Writing Workshops

Flight of the Mind announces its 4th annual summer writing workshop for women. Barbara Wilson, Judith Barrington and Evelyn C. White will lead this year. Held in the Oregon Cascade Mts., July 26th - Aug. 2. For info., send SASE to Flight of the Mind, 622 SE 28th, Portland, OR 97214.

Viva Nicaragua

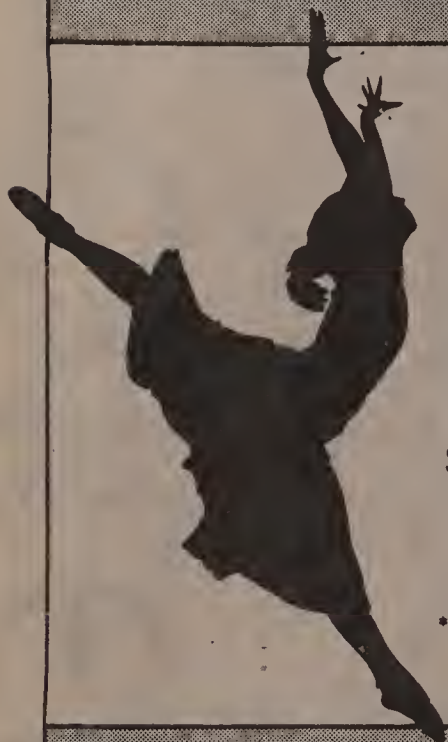
Arts for a New Nicaragua is recruiting for the August 1987 Artists Brigade. Interested visual and performing artists should contact Arts for a New Nicaragua, 439 Washington St. #4, Brookline, MA 02146, or call (617) 738-9719.

Manuscripts & Artwork Wanted

Zone, a feminist journal for women and men, seeks submissions for its 2nd volume, with an emphasis on "Crossing the Boundaries: The Immigrant Experience." Deadline is June 15. Sample, \$5.50. Zone, P.O. Box 803, Brookline Village, MA 02147.

Gay Community News and
The Pledge to Resist the U.S. War in Central America
take great pleasure in presenting a weekend of entertainment
to celebrate Gay Pride 1987!

FRIDAY JUNE 12 - 8:00 P.M.



THE DANCE BRIGADE

nationally renowned women's dance/theater group
from Wallflower Order

at the Strand Theater, 543 Columbia Road, Dorchester

\$25 sponsor,* \$13 contributor, \$10 regular, \$6 low income

Please call the Pledge or GCN to arrange for childcare.

This event will be interpreted in ASL and Spanish.



*If you desire, your name will be listed in the program if you respond by June 1.

SATURDAY JUNE 13 - 9:00 P.M.

DANCE PARTY

featuring

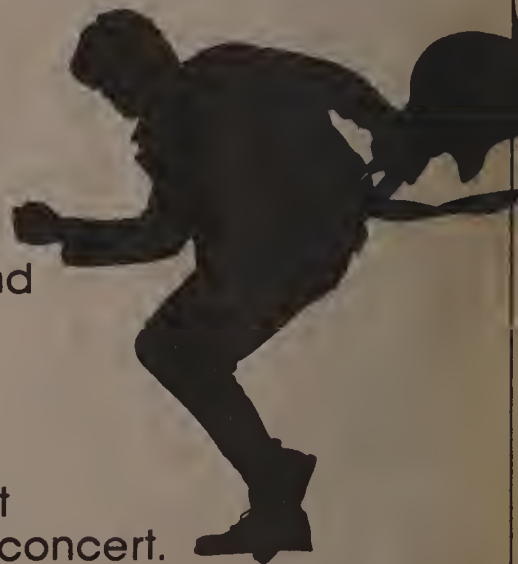
RIGHT TIME, Boston-based "World Beat" dance band
DEAN and the WEENIES, radical beat from NYC
JOHN DEMETER, Boston's "movement" d.j.

at City Hall, Government Center



\$5 in advance, \$7 at door, \$3 at door if you present
your ticket stub from the June 12th Dance Brigade concert.

This event will be ASL interpreted.



Advance tickets available in Boston at Glad Day Bookshop; in Cambridge at
New Words Bookstore, Bodyworks Gym or Sandy's Music; in Jamaica Plain at Redbook,
Food for Thought, or Arborway Video. Mail-order tickets available through the Pledge at
11 Garden Street, Cambridge, or GCN at 62 Berkeley St., Boston. Tickets purchased
through mail will be held at door.